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DIE KONTROLLE ÜBER DIE GESETZGEBUNG IN DEN VEREINIGTEN STAATEN VON NORD-AMERIKA UND DEREN GLIEDERN. Von Dr. Amos S. Hershey. Heidelberg: J. Hörning. 1894. 8vo. pp. 71.

This little work originated in Professor Jellinek's Seminar of Public Law at Heidelberg. It treats of the various checks and limitations imposed on the legislative power, not merely in the Federal Government, but in the individual States. The chief restraints noticed are the veto-power, the power of the courts to test the constitutionality of statutes, and the direct participation of the electors in legislation through constitutional conventions and the referendum. The author has not merely explained the nature of these restrictions, but has also given a brief historical account of their origin and added some observations on their practical working. He writes with force and clearness, and has arranged his material admirably. The sections on the referendum, or submission of legislative questions to the decision of the electors directly, are especially good. While presenting nothing especially new to the American student of constitutional law and politics, the book is well worthy of perusal as a clear and concise statement of the subject.

F. B. W.

HAND BOOK OF COMMON-LAW PLEADING. By Benjamin J. Shipman. St. Paul, Minn: West Publishing Co. 1894. 8vo. pp. xii. 370.

Mr. Shipman's work contains, what its title does not suggest, a great deal of general information as well in questions of practice as of pleading. The book is written in a clear and simple style, well adapted to a student's needs, and ought to serve its purpose of making students understand the common-law procedure. In a book of so much merit of simplicity and fulness it is to be regretted that the leading principles in black letter type do not at all show the effect of thorough testing and revision, such as is advisable when an author undertakes the dangerous and difficult task of supplying *multum in parvo*. For instance, one "leading principle" is "Evidence is relevant to an issue which tends in any degree to prove it," and the needless warning is given in "elucidating" commentary on this that relevancy is "a matter often difficult of determination." But these, although not the only serious slips, are, perhaps, not fair samples of the general run of the book, which is on the whole apt for its purpose.

R. W. H.

A SELECTION OF AUTHORITIES ON DESCENT, WILLS AND ADMINISTRATION. By Nathan Abbott, Professor of Law in Northwestern University, Chicago. St. Paul: West Publ. Co. 1894. 8vo. pp. 751.

This volume differs materially from other works of the same character, both in form and arrangement. The author has made his selection from three different sources, and accordingly divided the book into three parts. The first part, called the Text, consists of excerpts from standard textbooks, selected with a view to filling up, in some measure, the gaps in the development of a subject by cases alone. Each excerpt is accompanied by references to the relevant cases, and these cases constitute the second part. The third part is made up of a full collection of statutes on the subject. Where so many selections from law treatises and so many statutes are printed, this arrangement is probably the best. The book will be of especial value to students who are reading law by themselves without the aid of a teacher.

F. B. W.

WEBB'S POLLOCK ON TORTS. Enlarged American edition. By James Avery Webb. The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., St. Louis, Mo. 1894. pp. xxvi. 803.

This book is a reprint of the text of the English edition, with additions by the editor merely in brief summaries of the American cases and infinite references. The appendices of the English edition are omitted, and a table of cases cited is added.

There is a vast deal of labor in the collection of cases in the notes, but it would be impossible for one who had not used the book in practice to judge of its value. The statement of the American law is so entirely in the nature of brief abstracts that it does not call for notice.

B. L. H.

TABLES FOR ASCERTAINING THE PRESENT VALUE OF VESTED AND CONTINGENT RIGHTS OF DOWER, CURTESY, ANNUITIES, ETC. Based chiefly upon the Carlisle Table of Mortality. Computed and compiled by Florian Grauque, and Henry B. McClure. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co. 1894. 8vo. pp. ix. 200. \$3.00.

The authors give in their preface an account of their care in procuring accuracy of computation and of type, such as is necessary in a work like this. The accuracy of their book can be satisfactorily tested only by use, but in other respects it seems to be a simple, handy, and inexpensive set of tables.

R. W. H.